

...David Curtis and the orchestra are simply great value. He and the band clearly love every minute... crisp playing and a warm, round, honest sound. It's just how music should be... Birmingham Post

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... It's just how music should be ...  
Birmingham Post

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## Spring Sounds

27, 28 and 29 May 2011

Civic Hall  
Stratford-upon-Avon



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## Spring Sounds 2011 - East meets West

Nothing defines Orchestra of the Swan better than its commitment to new repertoire... it is David Curtis's policy to commission works that complement classical pieces... his enthusiasm in presenting them sustains the exercise, his imaginative programmes have a knack of making connections which are genuinely stimulating...  
The Guardian

The Orient has long held a fascination for the West from the travels of Marco Polo to contemporary cross-cultural references and exchanges. Spring Sounds 2011 explores extraordinary music, from the heat and passion of Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue and Douglas J Cuomo's ecstatic Black Diamond Express Train to Hell to the timeless beauty poise, elegance and calm of music composed for koto and shakuhachi

**Spring Sounds 2011** integrates music from East and West with world premieres, composers, soloists and conductors. **'What's the Score?'** takes a look behind the scenes giving insight into the complex and stimulating relationships between composer, soloist, conductor and orchestra, a unique opportunity

### The timeless sound of ancient instruments

The history of the koto, Japan's national instrument, dates back to the 16th Century and in Japanese literature the koto is often used to underline imagery with significant extra musical connotations

The Japanese bamboo flute - shakuhachi has captivated minds and hearts of listeners for centuries. Remarkably simple in design, it takes years to master, the sound is at once sensual and spiritual, capable of great emotional depth

We look forward to discovering and sharing great music with you

David Curtis  
Artistic Director

Kenneth Woods  
Principal Guest Conductor



Friday 27 May 2011

**Americana!**

American icons from Copland's rural landscapes, the roaring '20s in Rhapsody in Blue and contemporary society from Douglas Cuomo, most well-known for his score to Sex in the City. Cuomo's *Black Diamond Express Train to Hell* was ecstatic

*Thirteen minutes of velocity and ecstasy... music which plunged and shouted, so mesmerizing, so fiercely American...*  
New York, Carnegie Hall

**7.30pm Concert performance**

This performance opens with **What's the Score?** an illustrated introduction to Douglas J Cuomo and his work

<b>Copland</b>	Rodeo - 3 Dance Episodes#
<b>Gershwin</b>	Rhapsody in Blue#
<b>Douglas J Cuomo</b>	Black Diamond Express Train to Hell**
<b>Copland</b>	Appalachian Spring - orchestral version

<b>Viv Maclean</b>	piano
<b>David Curtis</b>	conductor
<b>Kenneth Woods</b>	conductor

**9.30pm Conversation club**

Join soloist, composer, conductor and players

**Viv Maclean - piano**

Viv Maclean performs throughout Europe, Japan, Australia and the USA and with the Royal Philharmonic, The Philharmonia, London Philharmonic, English Chamber Orchestra and BBC Concert Orchestra. He collaborates with musicians such as Natalie Clein, Daniel Hope, Lawrence Power, Guy Johnston, Richard Dubugnon, Wayne Marshall and Marvin Hamlisch

*...extraordinary originality, superb simplicity, an otherworldly young man - he plays with the genius one finds in those who know how to forget themselves...* **Le Monde**



Saturday 28 May 2011

**East Meets West**

Leading exponents of traditional Japanese instruments perform with Orchestra of the Swan, shakuhachi Grand Master James Nyoraku Schlefer and Yumi Kurosawa, one of the most exciting young soloists on Japan's national instrument, the koto, delicacy and virtuosity in harmony

**6.30 - 7.00pm What's the Score?**

An opportunity to meet this evening's composers and soloists and hear the sound world of the koto and shakuhachi

**7.30pm Concert performance**

<b>James Nyoraku Schlefer</b>	Shakuhachi Concerto**#
<b>Michiyo Miyagi</b>	Haru No Umi, The Sea in Spring# with strings, koto & shakuhachi*
<b>Shu Wang</b>	Sinfonietta*
<b>Daron A Hagen</b>	Genji, a koto concerto* a Kyo-Shin-An Arts commission

<b>Yumi Kurosawa</b>	koto
<b>James Nyoraku Schlefer</b>	shakuhachi
<b>David Curtis</b>	conductor
<b>Kenneth Woods</b>	conductor

**9.30pm Conversation club**

Join soloist, composer, conductor and players

**Yumi Kurosawa - koto**

Born in Japan in 1975, Yumi Kurosawa began studying the koto at the age of three under her parents, Kazuo and Chikako Kurosawa. She received first prize at National Koto Competition in Japan in both 1989 and 1992 and she has given concert tours to Canada, Germany, Malaysia, Russia, and United States. She continues to perform in Japan and her first CD, featuring many of her own compositions, was released in 2009



Sunday 29 May 2011

**Summer time... and the livin' is easy...**

Relax and unwind with American soprano April Frederik singing evocative songs by Barber, Copland and of course ... Summertime ... The perfect end to a great weekend

**3.30pm Concert performance**

<b>Barber</b>	Capricorn Concerto
<b>Barber</b>	Knoxville: Summer of 1915
<b>Gershwin</b>	Summertime
<b>Copland</b>	Quiet City
<b>Copland</b>	8 Songs by Emily Dickinson

<b>April Frederik</b>	soprano
<b>David Curtis</b>	conductor

**April Frederik - soprano**

April Frederik has performed widely as a soloist in venues including St. John's Smith Square and the Holywell Music Room, and she was a semifinalist in the 2009 Kathleen Ferrier Awards and the 2010 Wigmore Hall International Song Competition. Recent performances have included Poulenc's Gloria, Villa Lobos' Bachianas Brasileiras no5 and an appearance on BBC Radio 4's 'Robert Winston's Musical Analysis: Ivor Gurney', while future highlights include Mahler 4 and a solo recital in the 2011 Newbury Spring Festival

\* World premiere \*\* European premiere  
# Conducted Kenneth Woods

**Douglas Cuomo**

Douglas J Cuomo composes highly acclaimed and original music for the stage, television and film. His music, influenced by jazz, classical, and popular sources, is as personal, distinctive, and recognizable as it is wide-ranging, from well-known television themes - Sex and the City praised by The New Yorker magazine for its "unusual, edgy salsa flavor" - to works for theatre and concert hall

**James Nyoraku Schlefer - composer & shakuhachi**

Shakuhachi Grand Master James Nyoraku Schlefer is a leading performer and teacher in New York City. He has performed at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, the Kennedy Center, Tanglewood, and BAM, and appeared as a soloist in Japan, Indonesia, Brazil and Europe. His first solo album "Wind Heart" travelled aboard the Russian Space Station MIR with British astronaut Mike Foale ... *melodically inventive, richly textured* ... The New York Times, 2010

**Shu Wang**

Shu Wang was born in 1978 in Panjin, north-east China and began composing at the age of 12, studying composition, piano, Chinese music history and Chinese traditional music at the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing. Following her studies, she was commissioned to write the music for a 26 episode TV drama, broadcast across China. Shu teaches at the Yehudi Menuhin School and her commissions include music for the Chinese State Circus tour of the UK, which cumulated in 14 consecutive performances at the Queen Elizabeth Hall

**Daron Aric Hagen**

Daron Aric Hagen established his national reputation with performances by the New York Philharmonic and the Philadelphia Orchestra; international recognition and acclaim followed with the premiere of his first major opera, Shining Brow. A steady stream of commissions from major orchestras, ensembles, and soloists over the past quarter century have cemented Hagen's reputation as one of America's most respected and sought-after composers

**Kyo-Shin-An Arts**

Kyo-Shin-An Arts is dedicated to the integration of Japanese instruments into Western classical music, commissioning and producing new works and concerts that bring forth the outstanding virtuosity of these instruments within the context of chamber ensembles and orchestras (kyoshinan.org)